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of sanctity—a pretty strong one it is, too!—prophets, apostles, *et hoc genus omne*. In about another week I expect to start for Carson Valley and San Francisco. The road is full of Indians and other scoundrels, but I've had my hair cropped so short that my scalp is not worth having. I hope to be in San Francisco in October, and in England somewhere in November next. Can you put my whereabouts in some paper or other, and thus save me the bother of writing to all my friends? Mind, I'm travelling for my health, which has suffered in Africa, enjoying the pure air of the prairies, and expecting to return in a state of renovation, and perfectly ready to leave a card upon Muata yan-vo or any other ruffian. Meanwhile, ever yours,

R. F. BURTON.

EXHIBITIONS.—Colton's Map of North America and General Atlas, with descriptions, published in the United States; and a portrait of Baron Alexander Humboldt, were exhibited.

The Papers read were—

1. *Extracts from a Letter from DR. SHAW, addressed, by direction of the President, to CHICHESTER FORTESCUE, ESQ., M.P., Under-Secretary for the Colonies, Aug. 24, 1860, on a Proposed Exploration in North-Western Australia, under MR. F. T. GREGORY, F.R.G.S.*

“Aug. 29th, 1860.

“In April, 1859, an application was made by a party of the settlers, through the Colonial Department of Western Australia, for the assistance of a surveying vessel, then in those waters, to aid them in exploring that portion of the country lying between Shark Bay and the north-west coast, about Nicol Bay.

“A compliance with this request not having been at that time found practicable, it is believed that the plan may, with certain modifications, be at present urged on the attention of the Colonial Office. In furtherance of these views, it is necessary to explain that it is by no means intended to confine the desired exploration to the limited extent of country pointed out in the first place by the settlers, but that a favourable time has arrived for endeavouring to complete the chain of exploration and discovery round Australia, by filling up the unknown space of six or seven hundred miles which yet interpose between the late travels of Mr. A. C. Gregory, from the north, on the Victoria, and those of Mr. F. T. Gregory from the west coast. The advantages to this country, of having stations and ports of refuge along this line of coast, are clear; and as it has been ascertained, by the late expedition of Mr. A. C. Gregory, that cotton

grows *naturally* in the valley of the Victoria, it becomes highly probable that large tracts, intervening between that point and the northern settlements of Western Australia, may prove available for the production of this plant. Mr. F. T. Gregory, who has already most successfully made the farthest exploration to the north-east, beyond the settled parts of Western Australia, is at present in London, and is most willing to undertake the task of exploring the region in question, now a 'terra incognita;' and the Council recommend this subject to the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government, being well assured, from his antecedents, that Mr. Gregory is worthy of all confidence. Mr. J. S. Roe, the Surveyor-General of Western Australia (under whom Mr. Gregory has so long served), is also in London, and has expressed his willingness to afford every information in his power in aid of this expedition.

"The benefits to the mother country and the colony that may be expected to be derived from this exploration may be briefly described. In the temperate region which lies to the north of the Swan River colony there is good reason to believe that extensive runs for sheep will be found, calculated greatly to extend the production of Western Australia. Farther north, and within and about the tropic, copious rains are known to fall in the north-west monsoon; and it will only be necessary that this fall, which continues for the four months from December to March, inclusive, should be stored for use during the remainder of the year, to make the country irrigated by it eminently well suited to the great staples of cotton and rice, for which the prevailing climate seems perfectly well adapted.

"For the production of one of the two commodities (cotton), European labour is perhaps inapplicable; but European superintendence and capital, to judge by our experience of other cotton-growing countries, are indispensable. The most suitable description of labour may be that of India; and the portion of Australia now referred to may become a suitable colony for taking off the surplus population of India, already excessive, and likely in time to become much more redundant.

"Besides the staples of wool, cotton, and rice, it may be added that men of science have come to the conclusion that this district may be productive in gold and copper, as well as other minerals. Its timber may also become an export of value.

"It would be desirable in the first place to examine the tract of country that lies between the FitzRoy River, in long. 123° 40' E., lat. 17° S., and Nicol Bay in long. 116° 50' E., lat. 21° S.; embracing

thus about 430 geog. miles of coast-line, with such a depth inland as time and the physical character of the interior may permit," &c.

The letter concluded with recommending that either Nicol Bay, Depuch Island, Roebuck Bay, or FitzRoy River, should be selected as the point of landing; that the expedition should consist of seven or eight persons, equipped for about six months, and should arrive off the coast at the end of March. The rough estimate for total expenses was about 4000*l*.*

The second Paper read was—

2. *Exploration of the Districts near the Burdekin, Suttor, and Belyando Rivers in North-East Australia.* By Mr. G. E. DALRYMPLE.

Governor Sir G. F. Bowen to the Duke of Newcastle.

Government House, Brisbane, Queensland,
12th April, 1860.

MY LORD DUKE,—With reference to my despatch No. 21, of the 16th February ultimo, I have the honour to report that Mr. George Elphinstone Dalrymple has returned in safety from the exploring expedition which he had undertaken to the North-Eastern districts of this colony.

Mr. Dalrymple states that he has considerably extended the knowledge already obtained by the researches of Leichhardt, Gregory, and Kennedy, of the rich and well-watered pastoral districts near the rivers Burdekin, Suttor, and Belyando, between the parallels 19° and 22' of south latitude.

He further informs me that he has discovered that the great river Burdekin flows into the Pacific Ocean, at a point a short distance north of Cleveland Bay, and not near Cape Upstart, as was conjectured by the late Dr. Leichhardt.

Should it be found that the mouth of the Burdekin is accessible to steam navigation, a great facility will be afforded for the rapid occupation of the neighbouring interior. To ascertain this point, it will be necessary that an expedition properly equipped should be sent by sea, at the expense of Government. Mr. Dalrymple offers to take charge of a fresh exploring party, and I feel persuaded that the Queensland Parliament will be disposed, on my recommendation, to vote a sum of money in support of this important

* The Colonial Office has since informed the Council that Parliament will be asked for 2000*l*. towards this Expedition, conditionally upon a similar sum being advanced by the Government of Western Australia.